GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1212
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2006
RECOGNISED RAILWAY TICKET BOOKING AGENTS .
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Railways propose to do away with the services of recognized railway ticket booking agents and now these agents to operate through the Indian Railways tourist Catering Association (IRTCA) by paying fee;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) Whether the proposed move is likely to put the agents into hardships and the burden posed by the Railways on agents is likely to pass on to the passengers who purchase tickets through these agents; and

(d) If so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a) to (d): No, Sir. However, an application has been moved in Hon'ble Supreme Court in which Hon'ble Court has been prayed to grant permission to modify the existing Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSA) Rule 1985, to the effect that the RTSAs will be entitled to do reservation only through Internet and not through railway reservation offices. In the meanwhile instructions have been issued for providing additional facility to RTSAs for booking of tickets on Internet through Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Any person who books ticket through Internet has to pay specified service charges to IRCTC. In case a passenger intends to book ticket on Internet through RTSAs, he/she has to pay additional service charges of Rs.15/- per ticket in case of second/sleeper class ticket and Rs. 25/- per ticket in case of other classes.